

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
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USDOC WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDOE WASHDC
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:ECIN, ENRG, UR, COMECON
SUBJECT: SOYUZ (ORENBURG) PIPELINE: KIEV MEETING OF
PARTICIPATING CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A. MOSCOW 10780, B. MOSCOW 3689

SUMMARY: UKRAINIAN PRESS REPORTED MEETING JULY 19 IN KIE
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OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CEMA COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN CON
STRUCTION OF SOYUZ PIPELINE. THE MEETING HAILED "EARLIER
THAN PLANNED" COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT; CONSTRUCTION WAS
SAID NEARLY TO HAVE REACHED STAGE WHERE TRIAL TRANSMISSIO
CAN BEGIN. HOWEVER, DESPITE ACHIEVEMENT, AT LEAST SYM-
BOLICALLY, OF END-1978 TARGET DATE FOR CONSTRUCTION,
PROBLEMS REMAIN WITH (UNSPECIFIED) NUMBER OF COMPRESSOR

STATIONS ALONG ROUTE, AND AN ADDITIONAL YEAR WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SOME AUXILIARY INSTALLATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC PAPERS JULY 20 CARRIED IDENTICAL RATAU ITEM ANNOUNCING MEETING PREVIOUS DAY IN KIEV OF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL CEMA COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN SOYUZ PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION (BULGARIA, GDR, HUNGARY, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND USSR). ITEM NOTES GROUP DISCUSSED PROGRESS IN "COMPLETING FINAL STAGE OF THE PIPELINE" AS WELL AS SUCCESSES OF INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN ATTAINING "EARLIER THAN PLANNED" COMPLETION OF PROJECT. GROUP EXPRESSED ITS GRATITUDE TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF UKRAINIAN CP FOR ITS "GREAT ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO PARTICIPANTS' CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS." GROUP WAS RECEIVED JULY 19 BY UKCC POLITBURO MEMBER TITARENKO. PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS ALSO WERE POLISH GDR, AND BULGARIAN CONSULS GENERAL IN KIEV, AS WELL AS CHIEF OF THE UKCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEAVY INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, N.F. NIKOLAYEV.

2. UKRAINIAN-LANGUAGE VECHIRNIY KYIV OF JULY 20 CARRIED LENGTHIER ACCOUNT OF SESSION, COMMENTING THAT THIS WAS TENTH SUCH COORDINATING MEETING TO DATE. REPORT NOTES "15,000 MAN INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE" IS NEARLY AT POINT CONFIDENTIAL

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IN CONSTRUCTION WHERE PRELIMINARY TRIAL TRANSMISSIONS CAN BEGIN, HAVING FULLY RESOLVED "COMPLICATED" PROBLEMS IN CROSSING VOLGA, DON, AND DNEPER RIVERS. ITEM ALSO REPORTS PRESENCE AT SESSION OF USSR MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION OF ENTERPRISES FOR THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, B. YE. SHCHERBINA, AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF UKRAINIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, O.O. BURMYSTROV.
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3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH CONSULAR COLLEAGUES AT POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 20, KAP CHIEF WAS SOLD, INTER ALIA:
--PROJECT WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1 TO PERMIT FIRST TRANSMISSIONS OF ORENBURG RPT ORENBURG GAS DURING THAT MONTH.

--FESTIVE AIR OF SESSION, TESTIFIED TO BY PRESENCE OF LEADING UKRAINIAN PARTY OFFICIAL, CONSIDERABLE CEREMONIAL WREATH-LAYINGS, AND GALA EVENING DINNER CRUISE ON DNEPER, PROVES THAT SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROJECT IS IMMINENT.

--NOTWITHSTANDING ABOVE, THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS WITH (UNSPECIFIED) COMPRESSOR STATIONS ALONG PIPELINE'S ROUTE WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER ATTENTION.
--FINAL WORK ON AUXILIARY INSTALLATIONS, LIVING QUARTERS, ETC., WILL REQUIRE YET ANOTHER YEAR TO COMPLETE.
--NONETHELESS, AT NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING OF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES--TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW--LINE WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED.
--AT SESSION, POLISH SECTOR (IN VOLGA REGION) WAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS COMPLETED AND RECEIVED "EXCELLENT" EVALUATION.

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--ALTHOUGH NOT NOTED IN EITHER PRESS ACCOUNT, ACTING ROMANIAN CONSUL GENERAL WAS ALSO PRESENT AT SESSION---S "OBSERVER" SINCE ROMANIA NOT PARTICIPATING IN CONSTRUCTION. ("WE ARE ONLY PROVIDING MONEY--PART RUBLES, PART DOLLARS," HE NOTED.)

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4. COMMENT: REFERENCE TO PROBLEMS WITH COMPRESSOR
STATIONS ACCORDS WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GERMAN
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MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN MARCH (REF B) THAT NONE OF 24
STATIONS SOLD BY FRG FOR ORENBURG HAD BEEN INSTALLED.
KIEV MEETING PROVIDED NO NEW ESTIMATES OF AMOUNT OF GAS
TO FLOW THROUGH PIPELINE TO EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS
IN 1979; THE MOST RECENT OFFICIAL ESTIMATE WE HAVE SEEN
DATES FROM DECEMBER, 1977 (REF A). THERE THUS CONTINUES
TO BE REASON FOR SKEPTICISM ABOUT AMOUNT OF GAS THAT
WILL FLOW THROUGH PIPELINE IN 1979. TOON

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